

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0892

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP NATO

SUBJ: US FORCES IN EUROPE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: STATE 27046, PARA. 2

1. THE US HAS REPORTED TO NATO IN ITS RESPONSE TO DPQ(73) (ANNEXES TO TABLE II OF FORCE SECTION) A TOTAL OF 215 THOUSAND ARMY AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN NATO COUNTRIES IN EUROPE. THIS COMPARES WITH 306 THOUSAND US FORCES (NOT COUNTING ICELAND) REPORTED AS STATIONED IN EUROPE TO A NATO STUDY GROUP ON BURDENSARING (C-M(73)93).

2. IT APPEARS THAT THIS LARGE VARIATION IN REPORTED NUMBERS OF AMERICAN MILITARY IN EUROPE CAN BE EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS:
64,000 UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND (NOT IDENTIFIED AS BEING
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IN EUROPE IN DPQ(73) ALTHOUGH REPORTED AS QTE FORCES UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE STATIONED IN AREA OF ACE UNQTE, DRC/N(73)6;

28,000 SIXTH FLEET (MOST OF SIXTH FLEET UNITS ARE
EARMARKED; DPQ DOES NOT ASK FOR NUMBER OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
STATIONED IN EUROPE).

3. WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS BOTH IN NATO
AND IN THE US OF REPORTING DIFFERENT FIGURES TO NATO FOR DIFFERENT
PURPOSES. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT US RESPONSE TO DPQ(74)
INCLUDE AT LEAST FOOTNOTES TO PERSONNEL TABLES
EXPLAINING ADDITIONAL US MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN EUROPE.
WE VIEW THIS AS PART OF THE LARGER EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE
US INPUTS TO THE VARIOUS NATO DATA FAMILIES EITHER TRACK OR
EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE.

4. THE FACT THAT WE HAVE OVER 64 THOUSAND MILITARY PERSONNEL IN
EUROPE NOT IN NATO ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED UNITS MAY HAVE SOME
IMPACT ON BOTH BURDENSARING AND ON CONGRESSIONAL UNDERSTANDING
OF ROLE OF US FORCES IN EUROPE. OFFICER IN NETHERLANDS DEL HAS
INFORMALLY ASKED MISSION TO EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FORCES
IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN EUROPE IN DPQ(73) AND WELL PUBLICIZED
FIGURE OF OVER 300 THOUSAND US FORCES IN EUROPE. NETHERLANDS
OFFICER ALSO WONDERED AT WHAT FORCE LEVEL BURDENSARING COSTS
WERE BASED. WASHINGTON SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER CONGRESSIONAL
PRESSURE TO REDUCE US FORCES IN EUROPE COULD INCREASE IF IT WERE
COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT ROUGHLY ONE-FOURTH OF US UNIFORMED
FORCES IN EUROPE ARE NOT IN NATO-ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED UNITS.
RUMSFELD

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